

Tower Grove Park South Gate Lodge
(Park Structure Twelve)
Tower Grove Park
4255 Arsenal Street
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-E

HABS
MO
96-SALV,
46E-

PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

TOWER GROVE PARK SOUTH GATE LODGE
(Park Structure Twelve)HABS
MO,
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H0E-

Location: Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The lodge stands over 100' north of the Arsenal Street (South) Gate on the west side of the Central Cross Drive.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle. Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15,738700. 4276300.

Present Owner: City of St. Louis.

Significance: The Lodge was the last major Park structure to be built under founder Henry Shaw's supervision. It has very finely carved capitals and several other features representative of the Romanesque revival style.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: August 30, 1888-April 1889 (Tower Grove Park Comptroller's Report 1888, p.50).
2. Architect: George I. Barnett and Son (Comp. 1888, p.16, 6/30/1888). For biographical information on Barnett see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
3. Original and subsequent owners: City of St. Louis. For a complete description of the park boundaries see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Erection of the building was supervised by James Gurney, Head Gardener at the Missouri Botanical Garden and Consultant to the Park (Later Superintendent) (Comm. 1888, p.40, payment 1/12/1889). Coarse masonry was done by J. E. Kaime and Co. (Comp. 1889, p.20, 9/1/88); the cut stone work was by Edward J. Stamm (Comp. 1888, p.20, 9/1/88). Lumber and iron girders were supplied by Philibert and Johannung (Comp. 1888, pp.28-30 10/9-11/88, p.20 8/30/88), while the granite came from J. W. Mitchell's Co. (Comp. 1888, p.24, 9/14/88). The copper roof was supplied by Mesker and Brother for \$2678 (Comp. 1888, p.50, 4/13/89); the leaded glass windows by Mound City Glass Co. for \$116 (Comp. 1888, p.42, 1/24/89). The marble hearth came from Pat McCormick of St. Louis (TGP Receipts and Vouchers, 7/8Q-12/89, 7/2/89). Interior plastering was done by J. B. Adams for \$170 (Comp. p.50, 4/13/89).

5. Original plans and construction: No plans have been found. The structure was apparently originally used as a shelter.
6. Additions and alterations: In 1913 the lodge was set up as an office for the Board of Commissioners (Annual Report of Board of Commissioners, 1918. p.8). It was used as a recreation building during the Second World War and as an occasional meeting place for local youth club activities (Annual Report of the Board, 1944-1946, p.6) as well as board meetings. A fire in 1951 put an end to these functions and destroyed any original plans of Park structures that may have been in the Commissioners' files (Gurney Interview).

In 1965 the edifice was further damaged in a windstorm and some roofing and flashing were replaced (Superintendent's Report for December 1965). During the summer of 1969, a large section of the roof was removed by vandals with grappling hooks, and was replaced at a cost of \$962 (Superintendent's report for June-Sept. 1969); only to be vandalised and replaced again in January 1970 (Superintendent's Report for January 1970) with galvanized tin coated with "instant patina" to resemble the original copper. (Gurney interviews).

In December 1972, attempts to stabilize the deteriorating structure with an eye to future restoration were begun. The crumbling second story ceiling was replaced with drywall and taped (Superintendent's Report for December 1972). The following month outside decking was repaired and/or replaced, and metal protective doors were installed on the east and west entries (Superintendent's Report for January 1974). The C. Rallo Contracting Co., contracted in January, estimated minimal rehabilitation in the form of adding plumbing and wiring and heating would cost \$11,800. In the spring of 1974 work began on the provision of these basic services, but further work is dependent upon the finding of a suitable use for the structure and funds to accommodate it (Lodge file), decisions the board has not yet made.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Two views taken ca. 1890 from the south and east are in the Park picture file (See HABS photocopies.)
2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Plans: A partial east elevation exists in the Park Superintendent's Miscellaneous Plans file.

Manuscripts, etc.: Henry Shaw's Comptroller's Report from 1869-1898; the lodge file; the Superintendent's Monthly reports 1960-1971, and Vouchers from 1867-1889, are, along with the elevation, in the custody of Park Superintendent Miss Bernice Gurney, and will probably be transferred from her office at 4224 Magnolia Avenue to the Shaw Manuscript collection at the John S. Lehmann Library in the Missouri Botanical Garden 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

Deed Books: City Hall, Market St., St. Louis, Missouri.

Interview: July 26 1974; 4274 Magnolia Avenue, Office of superintendent Gurney, revealed the date of the fire in the Lodge which destroyed many of the Board's records to have been 1951, and said that due to insurance problems, the vandalized roof had been repaired in 1970 with a cheap metal simulating aged copper.

b. Secondary sources:

Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners Tower Grove Park.
St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing, 1899-1919.

_____: St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920.

_____. St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942.

_____. St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1943-1959.

MacAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R.P. Studley and Co., 1883.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This picturesque eclectic Romanesque revival lodge harmonizes with the material and lines of the Tower Grove Park gates.
2. Condition of fabric: The exterior is good; the interior is shabby, needing new plaster and paint.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: An irregular shape, almost rectangular, with projections on the east at the main entrance (southeast) and at the stair tower (northeast), with a broad veranda running across the east, north, south, and three-quarters of the way up the west stopping south of the northwest basement entry. The body of the lodge is 34'-2" by 21'-3", five bays (east front) by two bays with veranda, 54'-9" by 44'-1/2"; one-and-one-half stories.
2. Foundations: Smooth cut blocks of reddish granite.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: Rockface gray limestone walls and veranda piers in a random ashlar pattern; rockface quoins. Smooth stone chimney coping, dormer edges, window sills and lintels, and pedestals for veranda piers and columns. The piers occur at the corners of the veranda. Another pair of piers carries a pediment over the entry steps under the segment of the veranda which projects

to the east. Unfluted, tapered columns run between the piers. There are three columns on the south elevation, and two sets of steps to the veranda floor run between them. There is one column on the east facade, north of the projecting section of the veranda, two on the west, and two on the north flanking another set of steps rising to the veranda floor.

4. Structural system, framing; Load-bearing walls, iron beams.
5. Porches: Both the columns and the piers of the veranda have cushion capitals carved with floral motifs in a Romanesque revival style. The veranda floor is wood, tongue and groove, painted gray. The ceiling is also tongue and groove, painted brown. Above the piers flanking the east entrance is a pediment with a copper relief design in the tympanum supported by paired elongated brackets on the face of the pier. The relief consists of two foliated branches meeting and tied in the center with the date 1888.
6. Chimneys: There are two rusticated stone chimneys with rusticated quoins and smooth coping, surmounted by rectangular terra cotta chimney pots featuring a star motif and bands of molding. One is on the northwest corner and one on the west side of the south bay.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The east front and west center door share the same panel designs. There are three rectangular central panels with one row above and two below of square panels, surrounded by molding. A basement door, on the northwest, has diamond-shape, leaded glass panes. The openings are defined by smooth cut horizontal stone lintels and sills. The casements in the dormers, the thermal window, and the lancets on the tower and north dormer also have diamond-shape, leaded glass panes.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape covering: The standing-seam roof replacement is galvanized tin, painted with "instant patina" to simulate the copper original. A steep hip roof covers the building proper. A shed roof of a shallower pitch covers the veranda. At the end of the seams are metal antefixes of a fleur-de-lis design. The tower is bell-shaped.
 - b. Cornice and eaves: The veranda piers and columns carry large, thick wooden beams above which is a simple molded cornice and metal gutter. This wooden trim is painted chocolate brown. The tower has a smooth stone cornice and a band of modillions.

- c. Dormers, towers: At the northeast corner is a tower 45' high, containing two pairs of narrow round-headed windows with an engaged Romanesque column running between them, one set on the east, the other on the north. The bell-shaped, standing-seam tower roof is capped by a decorative lightning rod.

There are three gabled dormers all with smooth stone coping, which is slightly rounded and scored and which has carved floral terminals. The dormers on the north and south have rusticated quoins. The south dormer has a single round-headed window. The north dormer has a pair of round-headed windows with an engaged Romanesque column running between them. The east dormer appears as a free-standing pediment rising directly above the entry door and projecting section of the veranda. It has a thermal window.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The east front entrance leads to a waiting room, dimensions 13' x 18'-3", with fireplace and mantelpiece on the west wall. To the north a door leads into an office room, 16'-11 1/2" x 13'-3 1/2", with access through two doors to the enclosed stairways leading to the tower and the basement. Unfluted Roman Doric columns support the wall separating the stairhall from the main storage room above.
- b. Second floor: The second story consists of the stair hall and one large, empty room, which has plastered walls and ceiling painted gray.
- c. Basement: The southern-most of the doors in the office opens onto the lower stairway leading to the basement. There is a toilet there, and an exterior exit on the west side. The basement is used for storage.

2. Stairways: In the northeast corner tower are two stairs, enclosed, one leading to the second floor, the other to the basement. Both are dog-legged, with winders.
3. Flooring: Tongue and groove pine.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, painted gray.
5. Doorways and doors: All interior doors are alike. The door and window frames have symmetrically molded trim with bull's eye corner blocks. There are three central rectangular panels on the doors, with one line of square panels above and two below, all surrounded by moldings.

6. Special decorative features: All door and window moldings, the stair balusters and the newel post are pine varnished a dark brown. The balusters in the tower flight are fluted and modeled in a gentle 'S' curve. A functional handrail of straight wooden members is used on the basement flight.

D. Site: The lodge faces east towards the north-south central cross drive (an extension of Tower Grove Avenue). It was built in conjunction with the south gate on Arsenal Street and is located a few yards south of the former well-house, Shelter Eleven.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm and
Peter Dessauer
Historians
National Park Service
July, 1974 and August, 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, architect, (University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983.